The Vermilion
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Battle of the Bands at Bayou Bijou

by Craig Guillot

Tonight from 7 to midnight, the Bayou Bijou and SPEAK, the Society for the Promotion of Environmental Action and Knowledge, will host "Battle of the Bands," an all-age show featuring local bands Frigg-A-Go-Go, Urbosleeks, Oktober Groundfly and 3. Cafe 101 will sponsor the event.

The price of the show is $6 or $5 with a canned good or clothing donation. Proceeds go to SPEAK and the food and clothing donations will be given to St. Joseph's Diner and the Salvation Army.

"I thought it would be a good opportunity to help some of those people who go to St. Joseph's and the Salvation Army," said one of the show's organizers Bernard Pierce.

Urbosleeks features Jamie "Fluid" Broussard on drums, Brian Fruge on percussion, Steven Miller on bass, Jason Trahan on guitar and Jason Robira on guitar and vocals.

Robira said that the Urbosleeks' sound is like a "flowing rhythm." He compared their music to a "big pillow," saying that it can be very heavy at times; yet it can also be very soft.

"Everyone in the band affects each other, and I believe that is our strongest influence, each other," said Robira.

Frigg-A-Go-Go is five-man band consisting of Ronnie Ramada on guitar and vocals, Jeremy Steward on bass, Christian Miller on keyboards, Chad Dupre on drums and Chris Deshazo on guitar. Deshazo describes their music simply as "flat-out rock and roll."

As its name suggests, 3 is a trio made up of Matt Gautreaux on percussion, Joe Whitaker on guitar and saxophone and Scotty Morris on guitar. All three band-members sing. Gautreaux said the all-acoustic lineup is influenced by such bands as Simon and Garfunkle, Bob Marley and Peter Paul and Mary.

"Our music is heavily influenced by the international sound. It involves a lot of percussion from a lot of different cultures. The best way I can describe it is a 'world beat'," Gautreaux said.

The band often plays locally in Lafayette at Cafe 101 and at Metropolis. Gautreaux mentioned that they are considering putting on a show with the Killer Bees at McNaspy Stadium in the near future.

Oktober Groundfly features Dain Marx on bass, Shawn Paul on drums, Tim Campbell on guitar and J. Torres also on guitar.

Marx said they are influenced by bands such as the Pixies, Sonic Youth and Velvet Underground, but that he can not necessarily categorize their music.

"It's really hard for me to put us in a category, we're not industrial, we're not punk. I guess you could call it alternative, but that is still not a good word to describe us," Marx added.

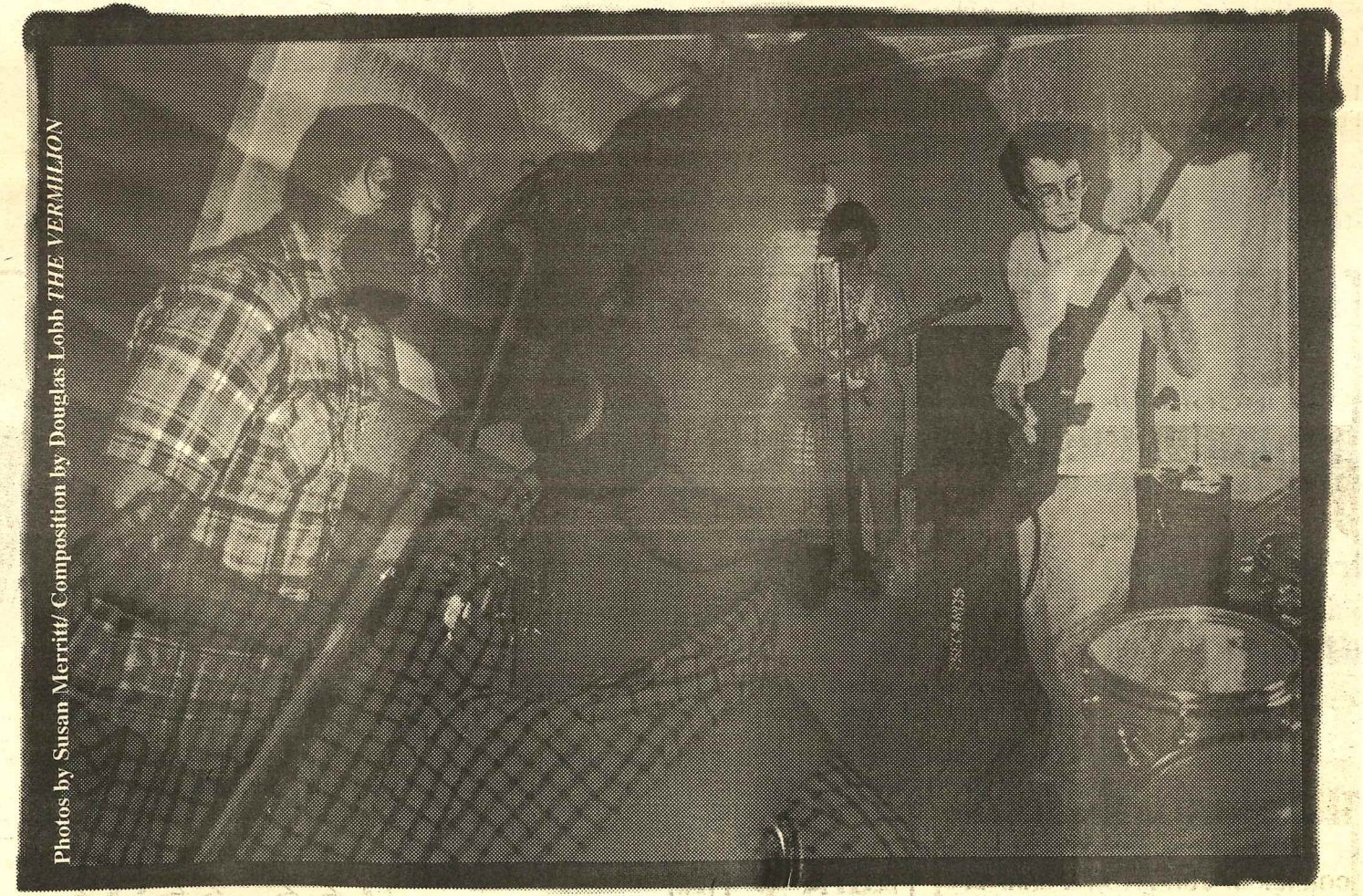
Marx said it is really hard to see a young local band perform unless you go see them practice. But he also believes that the music scene has a lot of potential because all of the bands are working together to try and get something going.

The whole show was made possible by the work of Pierce and Josef Butts. Pierce is a student returning from Santa Fe and is trying to make people aware of the different types of music that are around the area. He commented on the lack of attention given to musical diversity in Lafayette.

"I don't think that one kind of music should crush another, and I think that is what is happening," Pierce said. He said he believes that Cajun and

See Bands page 26

Urbosleeks will be one of the four bands performing at this evening's "Battle of the Bands" at Bayou Bijou.



Photos by Susan Merritt/ Composition by Douglas Lobb *THE VERMILION*

Bands cont. from page 21

Zydeco music has been dominating the music scene in Lafayette, and that people are not aware of the other types of music that exist locally.

"This whole show is an introduction to what young people have been missing. This is young, fresh, honest music," he said.

Pierce said that there are over 20 local bands in the area that receive no recognition because there is no place for them to play. He said Metropolis is one of the only places that cares about such music, unlike other bars such as NiteCaps, which he said are only concerned with money.

"At bars such NiteCaps, the motives are not about music, the motives are money, but I think at Metropolis, the motives are music," he added.

Pierce said he figured that he could help support Metropolis and the music scene by having a show at USL, and he said that the school was very supportive. He believes that once people see what else is out there, the support for musical diversity will grow.

Pierce said he thinks that there will be more shows in the future, and that they will always benefit different causes because he feels that music is a very powerful tool that can be used to help people. He also said that tickets will be on sale the night of the show for the November Musicfest, a three-day local music festival at Metropolis.

Many of the musicians in these bands were recently nominated for The Times 1995 Music Awards. The nominations for the awards are made to recognize contributions of outstanding local musicians.

Frigg-A-Go-Go, Oktober Groundfly and Urbosleeks were nominated in the category for the "Best Progressive Band" and Three was a nominee for the "Best Eclectic Band."

Ronnie Ramada of Frigg-A-Go-Go was a nominee for the "Best Rock Vocalist," and Jason Trahan of Urbosleeks was nominated for the "Best Rock Guitarist."

Also nominated from Frigg-A-Go-Go were Christian Miller in the category of "Best Keyboard Player" and Jeremy Steward for the "Best Bassist" category.

Jamie "Fluid" Broussard and Steve Miller of Urbosleeks were nominated for the "Best Bassist" and the "Best Drummer" respectively.

You can vote for the awards by picking up the latest issue of The Times and filling out a ballot. All ballots must be submitted by Tuesday, Oct. 24, and the winners will be announced in the Nov. 22 issue.

For those who can't make the show, tune to KRVS 88.7. It will be aired on "The Fringe" from 9-12.

The Vermilion has an e-mail account. Letters to the editor can be addressed to uslverm@aol.com